

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification was objected to because the first paragraph of the specification has not been updated to reflect the current status of parent applications. By way of the foregoing amendments to the specification, the first paragraph of the application has been amended to reflect the current status of the parent applications and also to include the priority data recited in the Application Data Sheet filed July 30, 2001. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner requested copies of the non US-patent and non-PCT publications submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement of November 30, 2001. Copies are enclosed.

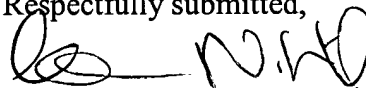
Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-27 U.S. Pat. No. 6,048,698. By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, claims 1-27 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 28-52. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If it would be helpful to obtain favorable consideration of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call and discuss this case with the undersigned.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and an authorization to charge all fees therefore to deposit account No. 19-5117, if not otherwise specifically requested. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any fees created by the filing of this document or any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to be charged to deposit account No. 19-5117.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: October 25, 2004

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